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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1633

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

PAULISTA et al.

Serial No. 09/297,092

Filed: May 18, 1999

For: COMPOUNDS WITH IMPROVED CARTILAGE-INDUCING AND/OR BONE-INDUCING ACTIVITY

Group Art Unit: 1633

Examiner: S. Kaushal

Atty. Docket No. 100564-9010

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 30, 2002

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 29 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claims 17, 20, 21, 23, 26 and 28 as follows:

17. (Twice Amended) The implant material of claim 28, wherein the matrix material is composed of a tricalcium phosphate ceramic comprising